

LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



FOR THE YEAR.

1961.



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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Walter Sutton, M.P.H.I.A.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R - 1 9 6 1

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the

LEYBURN R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen

I have pleasure in submitting my
REPORT on the health of the district for the year 1961.

The vital statistics compare very
favourably with those for England and Wales and do not call for any
special comment. The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases
remained at a low level, except for a measles epidemic, throughout
the year. It is pleasing to report that there were again no
infant deaths during the year.

The steps taken during the year to
form a Dales and Northallerton Water Board awaits implementation.

The damp summer relieved much of
the strain on supplies, but many samples were of inadequate
quality. The position of the supplies is still desperate.

Progress in re-housing and building
continued on a satisfactory scale.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

H. Diggles.

December 1962

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

(a)	Area (in Acres)	63.613
	Population (Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1961)	6131
	Population (1931) Census.	6851
	Population (1951) Census.	6423
	Net decrease of resident population mid 1960 and mid 1961	179
	Number of Inhabitated houses. (1951)	1871
	Number of Inhabitated houses. (1961)	1968
	Rateable value of district.	£59635
	Product of ld rate.	£238

VITAL STATISTICS

(b)		Leyburn R. D.	England & Wales
	Live births.	88	-
	Live birth rate per 1000 population	14.0	17.4
	Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.5	-
	Still-births.	3	-
	Still-birth rate per 1000 live & still-births.	32.9	19.1
	Total live and still-births.	91	-
	Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	-	-
	Total infant deaths per 1000 live births.	-	21.6
	Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 total illegitimate live births.	-	-
	Legitimate deaths per 1000 total legitimate live births.	-	-
	Neo-natal mortality (deaths under 4 - per 1000 total live births.	-	15.5
	Early neo-natal mortality (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births.	-	-
	Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still-births.	32.9	32.2
	Maternal mortality (including abortion)	-	-
	Number of deaths.	-	-
	Rate per 1000 total live and still-births	-	-

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant diseases,	5	2	7
Cardio-vascular.	23	23	46
Pneumonia.	1	2	3
Other respiratory diseases.	3	1	4
Digestive diseases.	3	1	4
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-
Other accidents	-	-	-
Suicides	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	-	-
Other diseases.	5	-	5
Total deaths (all causes)	40	29	69

Crude death rate per 1000 population 11.6
Death rate for England & Wales. 12.0

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Mid-year population (Registrar General's Estimate)	6131	6310	6310	6350	6380	6390	6430
Birth rate	14.0	13.9	12.7	13.2	11.1	19.4	15.6
Death rate	11.6	11.7	13.0	13.2	10.3	11.4	11.7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. - 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act, which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises, persons who are not able to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Details of the Staff are given at the beginning of the Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply Ambulance Services from their stations at Northallerton and Bainbridge.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Local Hospital Accommodation is provided by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents in the Leyburn Area received both in-patient and out-patient treatment at Darlington and Harrogate Hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOMES

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery Service is under the general direction of the County Council, with day to day administration being dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Committee. Four district nurse/midwives operate in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This is provided by the County Council, the day to day administration again being dealt with by the Area Health Sub-Committee through the Area Medical Officer.

SECTION C

WATER SUPPLIES

Inspector's Section. Details are to be found in the Public Health

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Inspector's Section. Details are to be found in the Public Health

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Inspector's Section. Details are to be found in the Public Health

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SECTION D.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases notified	Males	Females	Total
Measles 	85	84	169
Pneumonia 	7	6	13
Whooping cough 	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia 	-	1	1
Tuberculosis 	1	-	1

VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION

The following figures indicate the immunisation state of the child population in the Wensleydale Local Health Area, of which Leyburn Rural District is part.

Age Group

Immunised

0-4
5-15

55%
79%

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Although it is pleasing to see that a considerable number of children have received a booster dose against Diptheria before starting school, it is distressing to find that a number of parents will not allow their children to be immunised at this age. Most of these children were never protected against diptheria in infancy. Several outbreaks of diptheria have recently been reported from different parts of the country. Parents should remember that although poliomyelitis has stolen the limelight in recent years, diptheria can recur at any time with all the dangers and complications that were commonplace twenty years ago.

SECTION D

SMALL POX VACCINATION

66% of the children born in the Wensleydale Local Health Area during the year were notified as having been vaccinated against smallpox (47% in 1960)

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

By the end of the year - 7986 children aged under 15 years in the Wensleydale Local Health Area, of which Leyburn Rural District is part, had been vaccinated with two injections. This figure represents some 89% of all the children under 15 years of age, compared with 92% in 1960. In addition, some 3663 older persons have also received two injections and 10,302 children have received a third injection.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age group	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 +	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

There were 8 cases of Pulmonary and one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st. December 1961.

This gives a rate of 1.44 cases of Tuberculosis per 1000 population as compared with 2.21 in 1960.

SANITARY
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CIRCUMSTANCES
.....

OF
.....

THE
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AREA
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WATER SUPPLY

During 1961 householders as usual enjoyed a sufficient quantity of water for all domestic purposes.

It must be stated, however, that maintaining the pressures and quantities required is becoming very difficult as the consumption is steadily increasing year by year.

During late summer and autumn for quite a few years now, our three main sources of supply - Sowden Beck, Cranehow Bottom and Penhill have not been yielding sufficient water and we have had to resort to pumping with portable pumps. This is not satisfactory, but no doubt when the Dales Water Board eventually is formed and the responsibility for supplying an unlimited amount of clean and wholesome water for all consumers in the district is turned over to them, the members of the Board appointed by Leyburn Rural District Council will point out the difficulties and weaknesses of our present sources and distribution systems to the Board and shall strive to have them made good as quickly as possible.

The parishes of Redmire, Castle Bolton, Garriston, Carlton, Melmerby, West and East Scrafton all have piped water supplies that are not under the control of the Rural District Council, about one sixth of our total population is thus served.

More attention should be paid to these parishes in the matter of quality and sufficiency.

The Bedale Rural District Council trunk main continued to satisfactorily supply consumers in the Bellerby, Barden, Hauxwell & Hunton area. The pressure in the trunk main has varied very little since the Bedale R. D. Council erected a pumping station at Bellerby a few years ago.

The waters obtained from Witton Fell, Penhill and Cranehow are always soft and slightly plumbo solvent and so for many years now lead pipes have not been used for conveying drinking water in the area. At Sowden Beck Reservoir, machinery is installed to add lime to the water which neutralises its acidity and hardens the water slightly.

WATER

The number of dwellings with water laid on from public mains, including parish undertakings is as follows:-

Parish	Number of dwellings	Population
Agglethorpe-with-Coverham.	26	146
Akebar.	9	34
Arrathorne.	14	70
Barden.	11	39
Bellerby.	95	348
Caldbergh-with-East Scrafton.	14	52
Carlton Highdale.	24	63
Carlton Town.	46	125
Castle Bolton.	31	118
Constable Burton.	45	158
Finghall.	31	101
Garriston.	5	17
Harmby.	68	197
Hauxwell East & West.	25	88
Hornby.	23	90
Hunton.	92	325
Hutton Hang.	6	24
Leyburn.	383	1391
Melmerby.	19	63
Middleham.	214	667
Newton-le-Willows.	101	319
Patrick Brompton.	39	129
Preston-under-Scar.	64	204
Redmire.	70	203
Spennithorne.	52	177
Thornton Steward.	49	150
Wensley.	56	169
Witton East.	66	218
Witton West.	90	292
West Scrafton.	16	58
Total =	1784	6035

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES.

The routine examination of supplies is regularly carried out. Samples are being despatched to the Pathologist at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

Samples submitted	30
Samples found to be satisfactory.....	17
Samples found to be unsatisfactory.....	13

HOUSING STATISTICS -1961

New dwellings built and occupied by private enterprise during the year numbered 9. The total number of private houses erected in the district since 1945 is now 74.

In addition many large houses have been divided and made into two or more smaller houses. The number of persons per house works out at three. Two bungalows were erected and let by the Council during the year, these were at Spennithorne. The Council now own 248 dwellings, of this total, 236 have been erected since 1945.

DETAILS OF HOUSES COMPLETED AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

.....

Parish	Completed	Under construction at end of year
Bellerby.	3	-
Coverham.	6	-
Finghall.	1	-
Garriston.	1	-
Harmby.	6	1
Hornby.	6	-
Hunton.	4	-
Leyburn.	53	1
Middleham.	7	-
Newton-le-Willows.	6	-
Patrick Brompton.	3	-
Preston.	1	-
Redmire.	1	-
Thornton Steward.	2	-
Wensley.	1	-
West Witton.	1	-
Total =	102	2

HOUSING

DETAILS OF HOUSES ERECTED BY LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Parish	4.B.R.	3.B.R.	2.B.R.	Bunga- lows	Total
Arrathorne	1	3	-	-	4
Bellerby	-	12	-	-	12
Constable Burton	-	10	-	-	10
East Witton.	-	4	-	-	4
Finghall.	-	12	-	-	12
Harmby.	-	6	-	-	6
Hunton.	-	10	-	4	14
Leyburn(Maythorne)	-	66	-	-	66
Leyburn(Woodside)	-	6	3	8	17
Leyburn(Nurseries)	-	4	-	6	10
Middleham.	-	28	8	8	44
Patrick Brompton.	-	2	-	-	2
Newton-le-Willows.	-	2	-	2	4
Preston.	1	2	-	-	3
Redmire.	-	6	-	-	6
Spennithorne.	-	14	-	2	16
Thornton Steward.	-	4	-	-	4
Wensley.	-	4	-	-	4
West Witton.	1	7	-	2	10
Total	3	202	11	32	248

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS & UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Houses demolished

CLEARANCE AREAS

- 1) Houses unfit for human habitation
- 2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.
- 3) Houses on land acquired under Section of Housing Act. 1936

Houses demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
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NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS

- 4) As a result of formal or informal procedure

1	6	1
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UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Number

- 5) Under Section 16(4) 17/1 and Housing Act. 1957
- 6) Under Section 17(3) and 26 Housing Act. 1957
- 7) Parts of building closed under Section 18 -Housing Act. 1957

4

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UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

- | | By Owner | By Local Authority |
|---|----------|--------------------|
| 8) After informal action by Local Authority | 44 | - |
| 9) After informal notice (a) Public Health Acts | - | - |
| (b) Housing Act. 1957 Sect. 9 & 16 | - | - |
| 10) Under Section 24 of Housing Act. 1957 | - | - |

UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING ACT. 1957)

- | | Number of houses | Number of separate dwellings |
|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| 11) Retained for temporary accommodation | | |
| (a) under Section 2 | - | - |
| (b) under Section 3 | - | - |
| (c) under Section 4 | - | - |
| 12) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6 | | - |

PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

Number of houses	Number of occupants
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- 13) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders

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SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES

During the year, as in the past, Leyburn Rural District Council has continued its progressive policy in regard to sewage disposal schemes. The number of post-war schemes completed within the district clearly indicates the extent to which the Council have gone to implement this policy, and a record that will compare favourably with most authorities of similar size and income. When the present schemes under construction at the moment are completed, eleven of the major villages will have modern sewers and disposal works, which have been completed during the post-war years. Future schemes under preparation are for the villages of Carlton, Melmerby, Thornton Steward and Horsehouse, the first and second villages are to be included in a combined scheme. On the completion of these, the only villages left of any size are Redmire and Hauxwell. Many of the smaller hamlets are connected to various septic tanks which are generally satisfactory. The full effect from a public health point of view can only be appreciated when one visits a village after a scheme has been in operation for a year. Many of the villages are situated in close proximity to a stream, this prior to the introduction of sewers acted on their behalf - in places a stinking morass. To-day, the water in the streams runs and ripples crystal clear, an asset to the village and the community, a credit to the planners and an example to the hard core of die-hards who oppose such schemes because grandfather did without.

The supervision and maintenance of all our works is undertaken by a mobile team of two men with a Land Rover to convey themselves and their equipment. In addition they attend to all blocked and defective sewers and operate a Vacci Tank service for the emptying of septic tanks, the latter is operated from the Land Rover and the service is charged to the individual. It is anticipated that the demand on the service will increase in view of the Public Health Act. - 1961 and the treatment of farm sewage.

Whilst allowance for treatment is being allowed in all future works, many local farmers appear to favour tanks on their own land, the contents to be emptied on the land by our Vacci Tank as and when required, rather than pay for treatment. No real decision has been made and until comparative costs can be given to the farmer, naturally they will not make a decision and they are looking for the cheapest method of disposal.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

	Inspections	Informal Notices	Not complied with	Statutory Notices	Not complied with
Council's works	1009	93	-	-	-
Housing	464	10	-	6	-
Slaughterhouses	81	-	-	-	-
Dairies	11	-	-	-	-
Public Health Acts	548	85	20	-	-
Food Hygiene	78	-	-	-	-
Total =	2191	188	20	6	-

PLANS

53. Plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table below:-

Parish	New build- ings	Alter- ations to dwellings	Garages & sheds	Cow sheds & dairies	Other Build- ings	Total
Bellerby.	1	1	-	1	-	2
Carlton Highdale	-	-	1	3	-	4
Constable Burton	-	-	-	2	2	4
Finghall	-	-	1	-	1	2
Harmby	2	-	1	-	2	5
Hornby	-	-	-	-	3	3
Leyburn	3	3	6	1	6	19
Middleham	-	2	-	-	-	2
Newton-le-Willows	-	2	-	-	-	2
Redmire	-	-	-	1	1	2
Spennithorne	-	1	1	-	-	2
Thornton Steward	2	-	-	1	-	3
West Witton	-	1	-	-	2	3
	7	10	10	9	17	53

HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT 1959

STANDARD GRANTS

Forty four dwellings during 1961 were improved by means of a Standard Grant. Two applications only were refused. This is a great improvement upon the previous year when only thirty four applications were approved. An average of £68 per dwelling was given. The applications were most numerous in the villages that have been recently sewered. Sixteen were from farm houses and isolated cottages, so situated that it is unlikely that a main sewerage scheme will ever be available. In all these cases septic tanks were constructed. Much time is spent upon these projects, advising owners, builders and occupiers and checking costs upon completion of the works. Many more property owners should improve their property by means of grants.

MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering of animals for meat for the population of our district continues to be carried out at Leyburn, where five butchers obtain their supplies, and one other small slaughterhouse at Spennithorne where one butcher kills for himself only.

Slaughtering takes place at week-ends in the Leyburn premises. Animals are inspected either on Sunday evenings or before 9 a.m. on Monday mornings and the meat is all in the butchers' shops by Monday afternoon. The quality of the meat continues to be very good, a very small proportion was found to be unfit, mainly livers with parasites. The slaughtermen and their assistants gave all necessary help in the matter of hanging heavy carcasses and offals so that they could more easily be inspected.

CARCASSES AND OFFALS INSPECTED DURING - 1961

	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	347	-	6	1090	379
Number inspected	300	-	6	903	269
<u>CONDEMNATIONS</u>					
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>OTHER DISEASES</u>					
Whole carcasses	-	-	-	-	-
Parts of carcasses or organs	30	-	-	1	2

FOOD
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The total number of food premises of all kinds in the district is 73 - made up as follows:-

Bakers	2	Cafes	4
Grocery	25	Fish	4
Sweets	2	Grocers(green)	4
Hotels	23	Confectioners.	9

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Act, 1949/54 is as follows:-

Butchers	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	nil
Ice cream retailers	34
Fish friers	2
Dairies	3

ICE CREAM(HEAT TREATMENT etc) REGULATIONS - 1947

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS - 1955/6

The handling and preparing of food in the area is, generally speaking, carried out in a satisfactory manner. More and more food is being sold in pre-packed cartons and freezing cabinets are now installed in the majority of grocers shops. These are steps forward in the matter of preventing our food being exposed to the risks of contamination in retail shops.

MILK

Bottling of tuberculin tested milk is undertaken at three Dairies in the district. None of our retailers handle ordinary milk. In the small villages and hamlets, householders obtain their supplies direct from farmer producers by arrangement with the authorities. Bottling is not undertaken at these farms.

DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD

Food found unfit for human consumption and surrendered by shop keepers and others is destroyed by burning. Unsound meat from the slaughterhouse is taken away by contractors each Wednesday. It is processed and converted into fertilisers and animal foods. During the year the following articles of food from retail shops were dealt with and destroyed.

Ox tongue	2 - tins.	9 lbs
Boneless ham	1 - tins.	14 lbs - 14 ozs.
Shoulder bacon	1 - -	12 lbs.
Pork shoulder	1 - -	3 lbs.
Shrimp Bisque	2 - tins.	1 lb. - 10 ozs.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

Yarker Bank tip at Leyburn is now full and we were obliged to find a new tip. Lord Bolton, when approached, offered a disused quarry at Preston. This offer was at once taken up and tipping commenced in October. We are very grateful to Lord Bolton and his Agent. This tip will prove very useful for years to come. Harmby Tip was also closed to us during the year which means that we are having longer hauls to either Preston or Middleham. In use at the present time are four tips :- Lingy Hill at Arrathorne, Thorpes Quarry at Middleham, Nossills at West Witton and at Preston. Another tip in Coverdale is urgently needed.

Refuse collection in the area continued as usual during the year. One of the team of three men left during the year and for a time we found it difficult to keep to our schedule, but after a few weeks another suitable man was obtained and he has now settled down quite nicely. The cost of the service during the year was £2741 - 12 - 6

RODENT CONTROL

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT. 1949

Our tips, sewage works and other properties were regularly inspected during the year. Baits were laid as required and the rat population held in check. Several property owners asked for the help of our operative, advice was given and appropriate steps were taken to rid their premises of vermin. We continued to use 'Warfarin' mixed with oatmeal as our main bait. Our sewers were regularly baited where necessary.

FACTORIES ACTS - 1937 - 1959

SPECTIONS

PART 1

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i) Factories in which Section 1.2.3.4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	32	1	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	36	6	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	2	48	3	-
Total	54	86	4	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M.	By H. M.	
			Inspector	Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness(S.1)					
Overcrowding.(S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					

